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UNCLAS AMMAN 003741

SIPDIS

STATE FOR OES/PCI TURNER AND YU; OES/ENV RICHARD; NEA/ARN
SCHEDLBAUER; NEA/RA LAWSON
BAGHDAD FOR CPA/KRAWCZEL

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: JORDAN-SOLICITING ASSISTANCE FOR IRAQ
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

REF: STATE 099370

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action cable; see para 6.

[1](#)2. (SBU) In response to reftel demarche, Jordanian Minister of Environment, Alia Bouran, welcomed the opportunity for 1-2 of her employees to attend the Iraq environment experts workshop. (COMMENT: Post does not believe, however, that Jordan's nascent Ministry of Environment can serve as a model for an Iraqi environmental regulatory or enforcement body. Jordanian technical "experts" attending such a workshop would probably be learning as much as their Iraqi counterparts from the international environmental and scientific community. END COMMENT)

[1](#)3. (SBU) On the question of whether Jordan would be willing to provide the venue for the workshop, and possibly the follow-on donors' meeting, something that Bouran did not remember discussing with OES PDAS Rock on the margins of the UNEP meeting in Korea last month, Bouran nevertheless said she would be interested in helping Iraq build its environmental capacity. Bouran confirmed May 12 that she spoke to the Prime Minister about this proposition and received his approval, in principle, to "host" the workshop.

[1](#)4. (SBU) The anticipated early-June timing of the experts workshop, however, is not/not convenient for Bouran and the Jordanian government. Bouran will be in Washington participating in the preparatory Joint Environmental Forum (JEF) meeting on June 7, after which she will attend the FTA Joint Commission (JC) meeting the following day. Bouran requested that the Iraq environment experts workshop instead be postponed until later in the month.

[1](#)5. (SBU) On a separate but related matter, there is a possibility of a cabinet reshuffle taking place following the extraordinary World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea (May 15-17). In a May 12 telephone conversation with the minister, NEA regional environment officer learned that, although Bouran may give up the environment portfolio, she would remain the Jordanian government's point person on environmental issues related to the FTA. She emphasized no decision on cabinet changes had been made. Bouran assured us that she would be attending the preparatory JEF and JC in Washington in early June, whatever the outcome of any reshuffle.

[1](#)6. (SBU) Action Request: If Washington remains intent on hosting the Iraq environment experts meeting in Amman, it needs to carefully consider the date to accommodate Bouran and the Jordanian government. Moreover, a cabinet reshuffle might produce a new minister of environment only just settling in to his/her office by early June.

GNEHM